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An Editorial

Let's Hear
The WHOLE Truth!

It is a Communist tactic to try to undermine the confidence of the American people in their government and their institutions.

We believe the average American recognizes this Communist strategy when he sees it employed overtly and is able to cope with it.

But what is the average American to think when the government itself, implementing its loudly proclaimed belief that it has a "right" to lie to the American people, tells so many bare-faced falsehoods that the average American can place little trust in "official" cold war "policy" statements?

The real tragedy of the seemingly habitual use of the "official" lie by the Kennedy administration is that it serves the cause of communism by undermining confidence in our government.

Well, we believe we express a widely-held sentiment when we say that we are tired of being lied to, officially or otherwise, by the present administration. Moreover, we believe that most Americans agree completely with Sen. Barry Goldwater's demand that every official report bearing on the Cuban invasion attempt be made public.

This is Goldwater's polite way of saying that he doesn't believe Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy's explanation of the ill-fated invasion attempt. Nor do we.

It is apparent to us that Kennedy is playing with words when he denies that American air support ever was a part of the invasion plan. Goldwater said that the President himself gave him the impression that air cover had been promised the rebels. And the press, at least in Florida, has been full of interviews with Cuban exiles who claim that the Central Intelligence Agency led them to believe that U. S. air support would be forthcoming.

To cite but one example, the January 14 issue of U. S. News & World Report contains a timely interview with Manuel Penabaz, a survivor of the ill-fated 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, who charges:

"The whole invasion operation that had been planned and directed by agencies of the U. S. government had been abandoned by the government at the moment when victory could have overthrown Fidel Castro."

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During the exhaustive training of the invaders in Guatemala, Penabaz said, "we were promised the support of the armed forces of the United States. 'Over you will be air cover,' we were told, 'and back of you the Navy and land forces of the United States and other free nations of the Americas. You cannot fail.' *** We were preparing to free our land of Marxist dictatorship. We understood that our brigade would be the initial attacking party backed by the might of the United States. There would be ample ammunition to stop Castro's tanks and his land forces. Every effort would be made to win the support of the Cuban people. Exile leaders would be formed into a provisional government and would receive the recognition of the U. S. and of Latin-American countries. Such were our assurances."

**** MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, OUR LEADERS HAD BEEN ASSURED OF U. S. AIR COVER, THE BACKING OF THE U. S. NAVY, AND — IF NEEDED — OF U. S. LAND TROOPS AS WELL."

While this newspaper does not rule out the possibility that the CIA lied to the Cuban invaders and never intended to provide air cover, we believe the attorney general, who speaks for the President on this issue, would have the American people believe that the Cuban invaders were not given the impression that air support would be forthcoming.

Manuel Penabaz claims: "We did not fail. We were betrayed." He recalls the dramatic moment when Castro's columns, outnumbering the invaders 40 to 1, were pressing the latter back toward the beach while the U.S.S. Boxer, loaded with planes, and two destroyers stood offshore:

"Manuel Artime Buesa and I were close by Colonel San Roman during the final hours of our defeat. We heard him make his last anguished plea for help. 'Where is our support?' he asked. From far away in the ocean came the reply: 'We cannot give you any further support. You are on your own.'"

"Quickly, in the anger of a leader forsaken, San Roman replied:

"'And you, sir, are a s--- of a b-----!'"

The Cuban invaders released by Castro in the ransom operation should have an interesting story to tell. They should be given the opportunity to testify before the bipartisan membership of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

If the Kennedys really wanted to tell the American people the truth, if they were inspired at the Bay of Pigs, they would insist on such an investigation.